

REMARKS

Claims 30-47 stand allowed in the present application.

The present amendment adds new independent apparatus claims 48 and 49, which generally correspond to allowed method claims 44 and 45, respectively.

The present amendment also adds new dependent claims 50-298.

For at least the reasons stated below, the Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable.

Amendments to Previous Claims

The present amendment includes minor clarifying amendments to claims 48 and 49. The Applicants submit that such amendments should not affect the patentability of either of claims 48 and 49. Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 48 and 49, as currently amended, are allowable for at least the reasons discussed previously with regard to claims 48 and 49, respectively.

New Claims

The present amendment adds new claims 48-298. The Applicants submit that new claims 48-298 are allowable for at least the following reasons.

New independent claim 48 is generally an apparatus counterpart to allowed method claim 44. Thus, the Applicants submit that new independent claim 48 is allowable for at least the reasons for which claim 44 has been allowed.

New independent claim 49 is generally an apparatus counterpart to allowed method claim 45. Thus, the Applicants submit that new independent claim 49 is allowable for at least the reasons for which claim 45 has been allowed.

New claims 50-118 each depend from independent claim 44. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that each of new claims 50-118 is allowable for at least the reasons for which independent claim 44 is allowable. The Applicants also submit that each of new claims 50-118 is independently allowable.

New claims 119-187 each depend from independent claim 48. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that each of new claims 119-187 is allowable for at least the reasons for which independent claim 48 is allowable. The Applicants also submit that each of new claims 119-187 is independently allowable.

New claims 188-243 each depend from independent claim 45. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that each of new claims 188-243 is allowable for at least the reasons for which independent claim 45 is allowable. The Applicants also submit that each of new claims 188-243 is independently allowable.

New claims 244-298 each depend from independent claim 49. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that each of new claims 244-298 is allowable for at least the reasons for which independent claim 49 is allowable. The Applicants also submit that each of new claims 244-298 is independently allowable.

Related Applications

The Applicants take this opportunity to notify the Examiner of various potentially related co-pending applications, many of which are related to power-saving technology. Such applications include: 09/318,668, 10/630,138, 10/657,785, 10/657,595 and 11/009,338.

The Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention that an ancestor patent, 6,374,311 is presently in reexamination with control number 90/008,136. The Applicants further take this opportunity to remind the Examiner of the Litigation Statement filed on June 3, 2006. Since the time that the Applicants submitted such statement, the International Trade Commission has found the ancestor patent 6,374,311 to be valid over the references of record in that matter.

Final Matters

The Applicants are presently preparing an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner in the present application. If, at the time of examination, no such IDS has been received, the Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' representative via telephone at the number below to discuss the status of such IDS.

Summary

In summary, for at least the aforementioned reasons, the Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants courteously solicit a Notice of Allowability with respect to all pending claims. To advance prosecution of the present application in an efficient manner, if the Examiner disagrees with the Applicants' positions stated above, or would like to discuss other aspects of the present application, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' representative via telephone at the number below.

Appl. No. 10/631,071
Resp. dated August 10, 2007
Resp. to Notice of Allowance dated May 10, 2007

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees or credit overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: August 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

/Shawn L. Peterson/

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